

I. AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

~~Please cancel claims 62 and 69.~~

Please amend the claims as follows:

38. (Twice Amended) A method of screening for modulators of a lipopolysaccharide mediated response comprising the steps of:

- Sub E1*
- a) obtaining a TLR-4 polypeptide;
 - b) measuring a lipopolysaccharide mediated response mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide;
 - c) contacting the TLR-4 polypeptide with a putative modulator;
 - d) assaying for a change in the lipopolysaccharide mediated response; and
 - e) comparing the lipopolysaccharide mediated responses mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide obtained in steps b) and d) above
- D1*

wherein a difference in the lipopolysaccharide mediated responses indicates that the putative modulator is a modulator of a lipopolysaccharide mediated response.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the lipopolysaccharide mediated response mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide is determined by determining the ability of the TLR-4 polypeptide to stimulate transcription of a reporter gene, the reporter gene operatively positioned under control of a nucleic acid segment comprising a promoter from a TLR-4 gene.

D2

52. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein said putative modulator is effective in altering the mediation of the lipopolysaccharide mediated response by TLR-4.

D3